

On summering up the casualties of our explosive holiday, the Fourth of July, the numbers of the killed and maimed rival those of some battles which have decided the fate of empires.

The majority of the injuries were inflicted by the toy pistol, using blank cartridges, the introduction of which has been followed by a general epidemic of lookaway, particularly in our larger towns and cities.

The toy is a cheap contrivance of cast iron, with a barrel about two inches long. It is a breech loader, intended for blank cartridges, the powder being held in a metallic case (other by a paper wad) or by folding inward the dashed end of the cartridge case. There is no half-cock; the trigger catch is roughly made, and there is always danger of an accidental discharge when the hinged barrel is being returned to place after the insertion of the cartridge. At such times the barrel is held in the open position, and the discharge inflicts an ugly wound in the palm. Other wounds are inflicted by the paper wad, or by fragments of the cut end of the copper cartridge-case, which are shot off with considerable force. In other cases buckshot, gravel, nails, or other missiles, placed in the barrel by heedless or malicious urchins, have caused severe, sometimes fatal, injuries. The more serious wounds, however, are usually caused by accidental discharges, the powder wad, or copper fragments entering the lacerated palm, and so injuring the nerves that lookaway, the result. There were seventeen fatal cases of this sort in Baltimore on the fourth. Fifty cases were brought in for treatment to three hospitals in this city, with eight or ten deaths; and there is no telling how many cases were under private treatment. Other towns appear to have suffered proportionally except Philadelphia, where, in consequence of fifteen fatalities from toy-pistol wounds last year, the use of the weapon this year was suppressed by the city authorities.

Other towns do not seem to follow the example of Philadelphia. Parents are often ignorant or careless, and a five or ten cent pistol offers irresistible attractions to many boys. In anticipation of next year's celebration some means should be adopted to prevent the manufacture, sale and use of such murderous playthings. Even the use of the pistol-shaped device for snapping paper caps should be stopped. No harm can result from them directly, but the habit which children acquire of pointing such things at each other in fun, is not conducive to care or caution in handling real pistols.—*Scientific American.*

EYE MEMORY.

Look steadily at a bright object, keep the eyes immovably on it for a short time, and then close them. An image of the object remains, it becomes, in fact, visible to the closed eyes. The vividness and duration of such impressions vary considerably with different individuals, and the power of them may be cultivated. Beside this sort of retinal image thus impressed, there is another kind of visual image that may be obtained by an effort of memory. Certain adepts of mental arithmetic use "the mind's eye" as a substitute for slate and pencil by holding in visual memory pictures of the figures upon which they are operating, and those of their results. In my youthful days I was acquainted with an eccentric old man, who then lived at Kilburn Priory, where he surrounded himself with curious old furniture, reputed to have originally belonged to Cardinal Wolsey, and which, as I was told, he bequeathed to the Queen at his death. He was then celebrated, but now forgotten. "Memory Thompson," who, in his early days, was a town traveler (for a reward, if I remember rightly), and who trained and himself the performance of wonderful feats of eye memory. He could close his eyes and picture within himself a panorama of Oxford street and other parts of London, in which picture every inscription over every shop was so perfect and reliable that he could describe and certify to the names and occupants of all the houses of these streets at certain dates, when postoffice directories were not as they now are. Although Memory Thompson is forgotten, his special faculty just now receiving some attention, and it is proposed to specially cultivate it in elementary schools by placing objects before pupils for a given time, then taking them away and requiring the pupil to draw them. That such a faculty exists and may be of great service to the rising generation; and, even should the proposed method afford smaller results than its projectors anticipate, the experiments, if carefully made and registered, cannot fail to improve our knowledge of mental physiology.

AN ALL-RAIL ROUTE ALONG THE COAST FROM SANDY HOOK TO CAPE MAY.—A correspondent writing from Atlantic City speaks of a project for building a railroad skirting the beach, to make, with the roads now in existence, a continuous line all the way from Sandy Hook to Cape May. He says:—There is a marked deepening of interest in the Brigantine Islands, because of the danger to the weather and the water supply, it has come to be the principal topic of public discussion and comment. The scheme has already far transcended its original limits, and now embraces the building of a railroad all along the coast which, in connection with those already in existence, would form a continuous line from Sandy Hook to Cape May. Such a road, connecting all the New Jersey watering-places with each other and with New York would be of immense value in developing seaside resources, and a ride of a hundred and fifty miles on the very single would be one of the wonders of the world. The nucleus of this great scheme is a proposed road along Peck's Beach, then another for a distance of ten miles along the beach of Atlantic City, and finally the Brigantine Beach road, three miles more. If this last named road were extended a little further it would reach Egg Harbor, where it could easily be connected with that growing and popular resort, Beach Haven.

Congressman A. C. Harmer and President C. D. Freeman, of the Camden and Atlantic Railroad Company, and their friends are energetically pushing the scheme. The principle trouble will be to cross the inlets. Some of them are a mile in width, and full of stormy waters. There are worse things than the waves though, to wit, the fishermen. They are especially dangerous in the night, and will interfere in any way with their calling. All the more so, perhaps, because of the fact that calling has not been so profitable as hitherto. Of course, drawbridges will be built, but such narrow gates do not suit the seaman's fancy. Doubtless they will place every obstacle in the way of the railroad that the State laws permit, and the matter may finally have to be referred to the authorities at Washington for settlement under the United States navigation laws.

A little boy was asked, recently, if he knew where the wicked finally went to. He answered: "They practice law here a spell and then go to the Legislature." It was a painful operation for that boy to sit down for a few days.

Not very long ago I was standing on the quay of a north country port when a cattle ship of home! alongside. Her decks were full of horned beasts; and what with the bellowing of these animals, the hissing of steam, the shouts of the seamen and the whirring of a great steamwinch, the uproar was tolerably confusing. In the midst of the beasts—that is to say, bellowing and grunting among the stalls, with their faces and sandy hair, and picturesque wild man, were some forty or fifty men, women and children.

"Who are those people?" I asked a bystander. "Emigrants," was the answer. "Emigrants?" I exclaimed. "Surely these cattle ships don't carry emigrants." "Yes they do," said the man. "And where do they sleep?" I inquired. "Among the cattle—in the forepeak—in the lee of the mangers. They are more stowaways than emigrants. They pay a trifle for the passage. They bring no bedding, or, if they do, they never lay it out. They lump together anyhow." "What are they?" I asked. "Germans, Danes, Norwegians and the like," he answered. "They're bound to America. They'll smuggle themselves over to Liverpool somehow, just as they've smuggled themselves across the North Sea. Money's an object with them I s'pose, and they don't mind how nasty life is, so long as it's cheap." From inquiry I afterward made, I found that what had been told me was quite true. Hundreds of the poorest orders of the Scandinavian peasants are landed on our northeastern coasts every year by these cattle ships. Their sufferings during the voyage across the North Sea are not to be described. It is literally a fact that they lie in the mire and filth of the decks, or are crowded without bedding, with accommodation of any kind below the masses of them, men, women and children—huddled together, battered down in darkness and foul air in stormy weather, and feeling one knows not how nor on what.—*London Telegraph.*

CREMATING AN EASTERN QUEEN.

HOW THE REMAINS OF THE LATE QUEEN OF SIAM WERE DISPOSED OF.

Consul Haldeman, at Bangkok, reports to the State Department, under date of March 25, that the ceremonies incident to the cremation of the late Queen and infant child have just terminated, after a duration of eleven days. It will be remembered that these royal personages were accidentally drowned in the Manan River on May 31, 1880.

For the two weeks last past Bangkok has been thronged with visitors from all parts of the Kingdom, during which time the heat had been intense, the small-pox appalling and the dust barely endurable. The preparations for the ceremonies have been more elaborate and expensive than ever before known in Siam, costing, it is said, \$500,000 or more. The exercises consisted of religious rites after the Buddhist faith, processions, races, tournaments, tilting, boxing, wrestling, theatrical performances, games, fireworks, etc. Each day the King distributed as gifts among the assembled thousands large numbers of small Siam gold and silver coins and lottery tickets encased in limes and wood-balls, which were eagerly struggled for alike by rich and poor, bond and free, poor and peasant.

On the 13th instant the remains of the late Queen and Princess were borne in catafalque and procession with great pomp and ceremony from their temporary resting place in the palace to the pyramine or cremation building, where they were placed upon the funeral pile. On the 16th instant the King applied the torch and lighted the pyre amid the lamentations of waiting women, children and priests. His Majesty was visibly affected, and gave expression to his great sorrow. On the following day the ashes were collected and consigned to the Manan River. The unconsumed bone relics were interred in golden vessels and deposited with those of the royal family.

The Diplomatic and Consular Corps had been specially invited by the King to witness these ceremonies, and throughout the same, attended by the Foreign Minister, they occupied choice positions for comfort and observation.

Many of the settlers of Illinois were rude in speech and rough in manner. Money was scarce with them, and service was paid for in produce. Governor Briggs used to illustrate these incidents of frontier life by the following anecdote:—One day there came to his office a young man accompanied by a young woman.

"Be you the 'Squire'?" asked the manly youth.

"Yes, sir."

"How much do you charge?"

"One dollar is the legal fee, sir."

"Will you take your fee in beeswax?"

"Yes, if you can't pay cash."

"Well, go ahead and tie the knot, and I'll fetch the wax."

"No," said the 'Squire, thinking there was a good chance for a little fun: "bring in the beeswax first, and then I'll marry you."

"On you tie the knot for us, right away?"

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